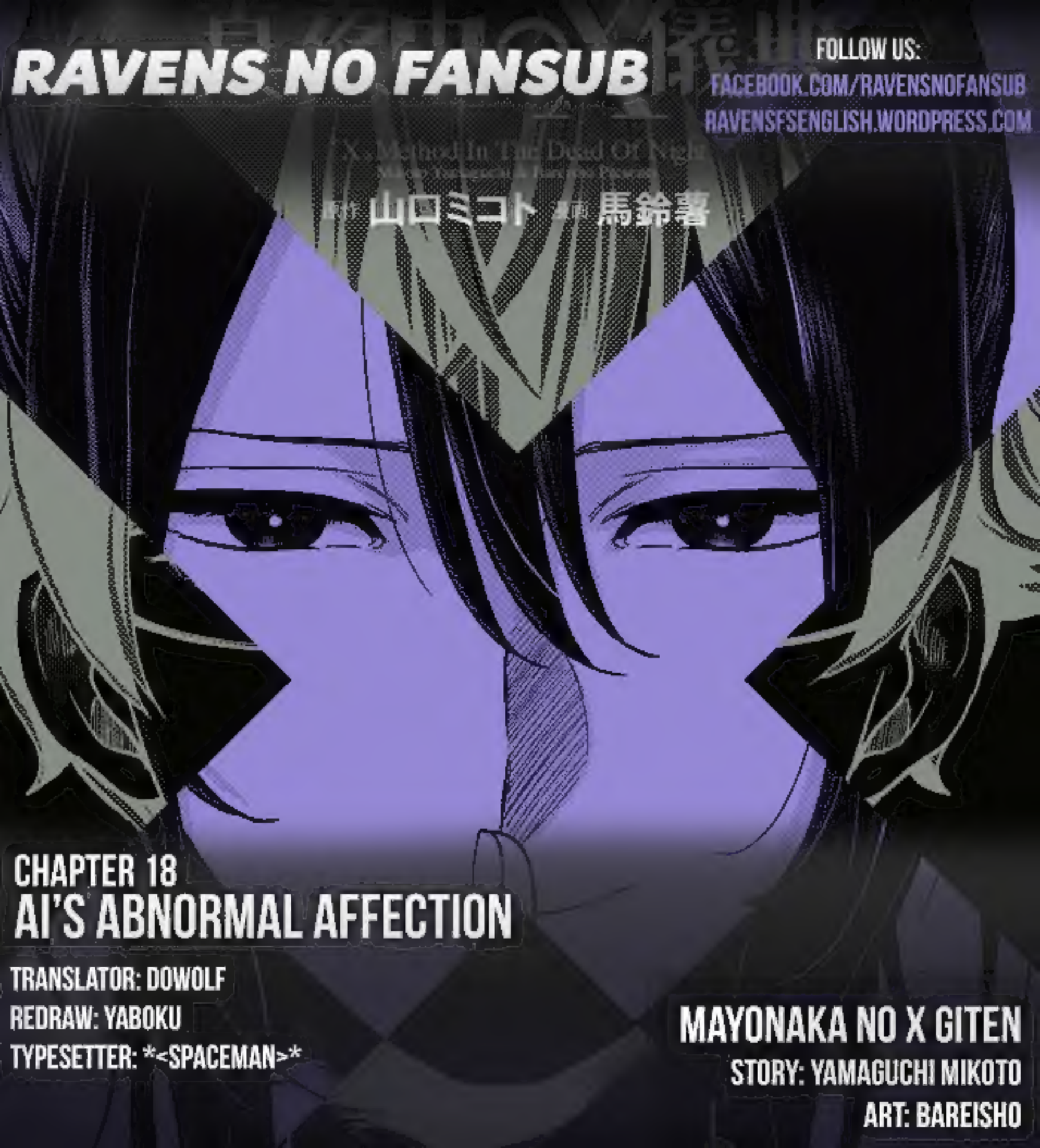
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CHAPTER 18
AI'S ABNORMAL AFFECTION
TRANSLATOR: DOWOLF
REDRAW: YABOKU
TYPESETTER: *<SPACEMAN>*
MAYONAKA NO X GITEN
STORY: YAMAGUCHI MIKOTO
ART: BAREISHO

WE ARE LOOKING FOR STAFF!

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YAKUSHOKU DISTPIARI - GESELLSCHAFT BLUME

Translator*

ISUCA

Translator

THE TOWER OF MYSTERION

Translator

Raw Provider

KINIIRU

Translator

KURO-SENPAI TO KUROYASHIKI NO YAMI NI MAYOWANAI

Translator*

HENSOKUKEI QUADRANGLE

Proofreader*

*Experience required

*WE NEED ONE URGENTLY!!

WE'VE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE PRISON...

THE TWO CHASE AFTER THE ESCAPED SACHI--

クロスメリッド
真夜中のX儀典

GIVEN THIS NOTE HE LEFT US,

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT HE'S HEADING DIRECTLY TO X, THE TRUE CULPRIT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE ELSE SACHI MIGHT HAVE GONE?

BUT SEEING AS TO HOW WE DON'T KNOW WHERE KIRISHIMA AI IS, WE TOO HAVE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO CHASE AFTER KIRISHIMA SACHI.

IF WE TURN THAT AROUND,

WOULDN'T IT MEAN THE PERSON IS SOMEONE KIRISHIMA SACHI KNOWS YOU'VE MET?

!?

AND WHILE THE PERSON IS APPARENTLY SOMEONE I'VE MET...

EXACTLY.

...THEN—

THAT WOULD MAKE X SOMEONE THAT BOTH YOU AND KIRISHIMA SACHI KNOW.

THE PEOPLE I'VE SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT ARE ONLY THOSE INVOLVED IN BODY SWAPPING.

IF IT'S ONE OF THEM...

A SHARED ACQUAINTANCE...? OR, ALTERNATIVELY, SOMEONE I'VE SPOKEN ABOUT TO SACHI.

SOMEONE WHO BOTH I AND SACHI KNOW...

I CAN COUNT THEM ON BOTH HANDS.

HOWEVER...

ONE OF THEM IS THE TRUE CULPRIT?

真夜中の儀典

HE'S VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE — WHAT IS SACHI THINKING?

STORY / YAMAGUCHI MIKOTO
ART / BAREISHO

コミックス2巻
好評発売中！

CHAPTER 18: AI'S ABNORMAL AFFECTION

コミックウォーカーにて第1話～第3話+最新話を無料公開中！

.....

...IT'S ONLY A POSSIBILITY.

WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE MEMO SPEAKS THE TRUTH.

.....

.....

...Y-YOU KNOW I'M NOT X, RIGHT?

!

TH...

...THANKS.

OF COURSE I KNOW!

I WOULDN'T START DOUBTING YOU NOW!

?

BUT YOU KNOW,

I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF BEING A LITTLE MORE SUSPICIOUS OF OTHERS.

I'M GLAD THAT YOU TRUST ME,

BUT THAT KINDNESS OF YOURS MAY ACTUALLY BE BIASING YOU AS YOU SEARCH FOR THE CULPRIT.

I MEAN, IF WHAT KIRISHIMA SACHI WROTE IS TRUE,

IT WOULD MEAN YOU LET THE TRUE CULPRIT GET AWAY.

IF YOU PROCEED TO ENCOUNTER SOMEONE WHO SEEMS THE LEAST BIT SUSPICIOUS,

DON'T HESITATE TO USE GRANDPA'S CROSS ABILITY

NO MATTER WHO IT IS!

IT CAN ONLY BE USED ONE PER DAY...

BUT IT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY THE CULPRIT WITH A SINGLE TOUCH.

THE CROSS ABILITY "PROFESSIONAL POLICE"...

THE POWER TO FORCE ANOTHER PERSON TO ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.

...I'M SORRY...

IT MUST BE HARD.

GOT IT.

I JUST TOLD YOU TO SUSPECT EVERYONE YOU KNOW.

I'M SURE THERE'S A FEW YOU ABSOLUTELY DON'T WANT TO DOUBT.

Uench! ギュッ,

NO MATTER WHO IT IS, RIGHT?

HEY, TRY TO THINK BACK.

BUT I HAD TO SAY IT. FOR YOUR SAKE, TOO.

OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE MET SO FAR, HAS ANYONE BEEN SUSPICIOUS?

...AND, SOMEONE WHO SACHI ALSO KNOWS...

OF ALL THE PEOPLE I'VE MET..

LET'S GO MEET THAT PERSON IMMEDIATELY!

IF SOMEONE COMES TO MIND,

...WELL?

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A NUMBER OF COPS HERE, TOO.

YEAH...

...BUT SHE'S THE ONE YOU THOUGHT OF, RIGHT?

I PICKED SOMEONE WHO SEEMED CONNECTED TO THE MURDER OF KIRISHIMA'S FAMILY, WHICH X CONFESSED TO COMMITTING.

TO BE HONEST, THERE'S LITTLE BASIS TO SUSPECT HER OF BEING X.

HOWEVER, GIVEN THAT IT MUST BE SOMEONE BOTH I AND SACHI KNOW,

MAKES SENSE... EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT CONFIDENT, I AGREE WITH PRIORITIZING SOMEONE WE CAN REALISTICALLY MEET WITH.

FROM THERE, I GUESS I WENT WITH SOMEONE WHO I KNEW HOW TO FIND.

DING DONG

...COMING!

JUST IGNORE THEM, AND WE'LL BE FINE.

THEY'RE ONLY HERE BECAUSE THEY ANTICIPATE KIRISHIMA COMING BY.

HOWEVER, WHAT ABOUT THE COPS?

GOT IT.

AT THE VERY LEAST, I HOPE WE GET A HOLD OF SACHI'S TRAIL.

IF WE NONCHALANTLY WALK UP TO THE DOOR, THEY SHOULDN'T STOP US.

[sfx]: Step

HELLO...

UMM, WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

WE'RE SORRY TO DROP BY SO SUDDENLY.

WE ARE DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY INCIDENT.

YOU ARE KIRISHIMA AI-SAN'S AUNT, FUJIWARA SAEKO-SAN,

NÉE KIRISHIMA SAEKO-SAN, ARE YOU NOT?

Y-YES...

SO YOU ARE INVESTIGATING THAT CASE ANEW.

...I SEE.

I HAD THOUGHT THAT THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY—MY BROTHER'S FAMILY—WAS THE PICTURE OF PERFECT HARMONY.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY REGARDING THE CASE.

AS I HAVE TOLD THE GENTLEMEN FROM THE POLICE TIME AND AGAIN,

SFX: CLENCH

I'M GONNA—I MEAN, WOULD YOU MIND IF I ASKED YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

...I SEE.

SFX: ぎゅっ...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE AI-CHAN IS RIGHT NOW.

..DID YOU SEE THE SCARS ON AI-SAN'S BODY?

WE CAN BE CERTAIN THOSE INJURIES WERE CAUSED BY SOME MEMBER OF HER FAMILY.

NO...GIVEN HOW LACED HER BODY WAS WITH INJURY, YOU MUST HAVE SEEN.

...I DO NOT CARE IF IT IS A GUESS.

WHO DO YOU THINK CAUSED THOSE WOUNDS?

NOR DO I WANT TO GUESS.

...I DON'T KNOW.

.....

AI-CHAN HERSELF SAID SHE'D FALLEN AND HURT HERSELF,

SO I THOUGHT TO TAKE HER AT HER WORD.

...THEN I SHALL CHANGE THE QUESTION.

IF THERE WERE SOMEONE WHO WOULD HARM AI-SAN IN SUCH A WAY,

WHAT THOUGHTS WOULD YOU HAVE REGARDING THE PERSON?

.....

THAT I'D MAKE THEM PAY.

IF SUCH A PERSON WERE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, I'D KILL THEM MYSELF.

SFX: STAND

...EXCUSE US.

WOULD YOU MIND IF WE STOOD UP FOR A SECOND?

THOUGH IT WAS CERTAINLY FAINT,

I FELT SOMETHING LIKE THE SEED OF A MOTIVE.

WELL...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HER REACTION?

SAEKO HAS NO CHILDREN OF HER OWN, SHE ADORES AI, HER NIECE, LIKE A DAUGHTER.

AT SOME POINT, SHE LEARNED THAT AI HAD SUFFERED ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF A FAMILY MEMBER.

ENRAGED, SAEKO USED AI'S BODY TO MURDER HER ENTIRE FAMILY.

AND THEN SHE TOOK AI INTO HER HOUSE AND MADE THE GIRL HER TRUE DAUGHTER.

SO IT REALLY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

HOWEVER, THERE'S A WAY TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE:

...MAYBE IT'S LIKE THAT? THE REASONING DOES SEEM PRETTY FAR-FETCHED,

BUT IF SAEKO CONTINUED TO LIVE AND ACT NORMALLY WHEN X WAS INSIDE AI,

IT WOULD MEAN TWO X'S WOULD EXIST AT THE SAME TIME.

HMM...
SACHI DID SAY
THERE EXISTED TWO
PERSONALITIES
INSIDE AI.

THERE'S TWO PEOPLE INSIDE AI...!

OH
MY.

IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN DISCOVERED.

WOW,
SO THAT'S
YOUR CROSS
ABILITY.

USING A
CROSS ABILITY.

X DID SAY
THEY FOUND AI'S
ABILITY EXTREMELY
ADVANTAGEOUS.

I GET IT
THAT MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
PULL IT OFF.

IT'S A
BIT OF A
CONVENIENT
EXPLANATION...

BUT IF WE
CONSIDER HER
DISTINCTIVE TRAIT
OF HAVING TWO
PERSONALITIES
IN ONE BODY,
I DON'T THINK
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

FOR INSTANCE,
SUPPOSE THE
CROSS ABILITY
WITHIN AI'S BODY

IS THE ABILITY
TO PARTITION
HER MIND AND
PLACE PART
OF IT INSIDE
ANOTHER.

AI'S BODY, WITH
SAEKO INSIDE HER

CROSS ABILITY USED

WHILE LEAVING HALF HER SPIRIT INSIDE
AI, SHE RETURNS TO HER OWN BODY.

I'M CERTAIN SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

...FURTHER-MORE,

EVEN IF SAEKO ISN'T X, THERE'S SOMETHING I'M EXTREMELY CURIOUS ABOUT.

NO?...

ｺﾞｸﾝ

YEAH. SHE'S WORTH USING THE ABILITY ON.

TIME TO GAMBLE-- IT'S ALL OR NOTHING!

H-HEY!

IF WE'RE WRONG, I'LL APOLOGIZE THEN.

CROSS ABILITY:

PROFESSIONAL POLICE (THE FALLEN SHIN-SAN)!

WE HAD TO DO THIS, JUST IN CASE YOU TURN OUT TO ACTUALLY BE X.

I'M SORRY.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT TO ONE OF THE THREE QUESTIONS, SO WE HAVE TO CHOOSE DELIBERATELY.

OKAY.

NOW, WHAT DO I ASK FIRST?

...THEN LET'S START BY ASKING HER STRAIGHT-UP.

...HMM... FOR STARTERS, THE THING WE MOST WANT TO LEARN IS OBVIOUS,

SO UNTIL THAT BECOMES CLEAR, LET'S ASK QUES-TIONS ALONG THAT LINE.

ARE YOU X?

I CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER.

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT X.

...OKAY, THEN OUR SECOND QUESTION WILL BE THIS:

WAIT.

SHE IMMEDIATELY INVOKED HER RIGHT TO SILENCE... WHICH MEANS SHE'S X?

SOMETIMES, A PERSON AFFECTED WITH THIS ABILITY WILL USE HER RIGHT TO SILENCE WHEN SHE DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION.

SO LET'S CHANGE HOW WE ASK AND MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.

...YEAH.

IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING,

THEN THAT MEANS SHE CAN NO LONGER BE X?

GIVEN THE WAY SHE SAID IT, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO ASSUME SHE HASN'T EVEN HEARD OF X.

GIVEN THAT, WE NEED TO USE OUR FINAL QUESTION TO PULL OUT WHATEVER IT IS SHE'S HIDING.

...IN THAT CASE,

TELL US EVERYTHING THAT YOU'RE HIDING

REGARDING THE MURDERS OF THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY.

!!

...I... DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING.

IT'S ALL SACHI-KUN'S FAULT.

ALL OF THAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED BECAUSE HE WAS SUCH AN AWFUL CHILD!

MY BROTHER WAS ALWAYS SO GENTLE, BUT WHEN SACHI-KUN MADE HIM MAD, HE BECAME SOMEONE ELSE ENTIRELY.

HUH...? HE PUNCHED NOT AI, BUT SACHI?

IF HE WEREN'T, MY BROTHER NEVER WOULD HAVE RESORTED TO BLOWS!

YOUR BROTHER-- YOU MEAN SACHI'S FATHER?

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SACHI, EITHER.

I NEVER HAD ANY IDEA WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HIS HEAD,

AND HE WOULD LOOK AT ME LIKE HE COULD SEE STRAIGHT THROUGH ME.

AFTER SPENDING ENOUGH TIME WITH A KID LIKE THAT,

ANYONE WOULD GO CRAZY.

SHE REALLY IS SUCH A KIND AN HONEST GIRL;

I CAN ONLY ASSUME SHE WAS BRAINWASHED OR SOMETHING.

"BRAINWASHED"?

BUT THE MOST PITIFUL ONE OF ALL

WAS AI-CHAN.

I MEAN, COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BLUE,

SHE TOLD HER BROTHER SACHI-KUN THAT SHE TRULY LOVED HIM.

WHAT HAPPENED WITHIN THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY?!

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